

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAIGON 00386 110101Z

62

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1785

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

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TAGS: PINT, PINS, VS

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF PRESIDENT THIEU'S TELEVISED SPEECH OF
JANUARY 10, 1975.

1. PRESIDENT THIEU BEGAN BY TELLING HIS LISTENERS THAT EVERY-
ONE IS WORRIED ABOUT THE FALL OF PHUOC LONG, WHICH THE GOV'T
HAS ALREADY DENOUNCED BEFORE WORLD OPINION. HE SAID WE MUST
CONSIDER THE LOSS OF PHUOC LONG - LIKE THE LOSSES OF LE MINH,
KIEN DUC, RACH BAP, AND DIEN - ONLY TEMPORARY. "WE WILL GO
BACK TO PHUOC LONG, JUST AS WE WILL GO BACK TO AN DIEN, KIEN
DUC, RACH BAP, AND LE MINH."

2. THIEU POINTED OUT THAT HE HAS IN PAST DAYS CONSULTED WITH
THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, THE GOV'T AND HIGH LEVEL
COMMANDERS AND NOTED HIS OWN APPEAL FOR 3 DAYS OF MOURNING
FOR THE PHUOC LONG POPULATION. HE CALLED ON HIS LISTENRES
TO STRENGTHEN THEIR RESOLVE NOT TO YIELD.

3. THIEU SAID THAT RECENT COMMUNIST ATTACKS MAKE CLEAR THREE
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 00386 110101Z

THINGS: FIRST, THE BLATANT, LARGE-SCALE ATTACK ON PHUOC LONG

IS NOT AN ISOLATED CASE BUT EVIDENCE OF ARMED AGGRESSION. IT IS ALSO EVIDENCE THAT HANOI IS USING PARIS AGREEMENTS AS FACADE FOR ANNEXING SVN. FROM NOW ON THEIR DECLARATIONS WILL HAVE NO MEANING WHATSOEVER; SECOND, THE ATTACK ON PHUOC LONG AIMS AT ILLEGALLY ENLARGING COMMUNIST AREAS OF TEMPORARY MILITARY CONTROL, AT DEVELOPING THEIR SUPPLY SYSTEM, AND AT OCCUPYING OTHER AREAS. THUS, THEIR GENERAL OFFENSIVE REALLY CONTINUES. FURTHERMORE, THEIR OFFENSIVE COINCIDES WITH THEIR LEAVING THE CONFERENCE TABLE AND IS CONCURRENT WITH THEIR ATTEMPT TO PLACE ALL OF SVN UNDER THE DOMINATION OF HANOI; THIRD, ALL UNFOUNDED AND IRRESPONSIBLE SPECULATION MUST STOP: A MINORITY MUST STOP LENDING A HELPING HAND TO THE COMMUNISTS.

4. THIEU SAID THAT THE ONLY THING THAT COUNTS NOW IS THE LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE OF THE COUNTRY. WE MUST FIGHT ON, HE SAID, IN ORDER TO FIND A POLITICAL SOLUTION FOR THE COUNTRY. THE SOUTH, HE SAID, MUST BE DEFENDED; THE COMMUNISTS MUST IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENTS BECAUSE THEY ARE THE BASIS FOR PEACE IN VIETNAM: IF THEY ARE NOT IMPLEMENTED, THERE WILL BE NO PEACE. THIEU ADDED, " WE MUST FORCE THE COMMUNISTS TO IMPLEMENT THEM, OTHERWISE, WE SHALL LOSE OUR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION."

5. THIEU CALLED PHUOC LONG ANOTHER PROOF-LIKE TET 1968 AND 1972 OFFENSIVE - THAT THE COMMUNIST DANGER STILL PREVAILS. WE MUST, HE SAID, BANISH ALL DEFEATIST THINKING, ALL THINKING CONTRARY TO THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE. HE STATED THAT PATRIOTISM AND A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY WOULD "HELP US DO WHAT WE MUST DURING THE COMING DAYS." TO SAVE THE COUNTRY, HE SAID, IS THE SUPREME LAW.

6. THE PRESIDENT SAID THE GOV'T WAS DETERMINED TO 1) CONCENTRATE ALL ITS EFFORTS ON SUPPORTING THE ARMY AND DEFENDING THE NATION'S TERRITORY; 2) STABILIZE ORDER IN THE REAR AREAS TO HELP THE SOLDIERS FIGHT AND TO PERMIT THE PEOPLE TO LIVE PEACEFULLY; AND 3) CREATE CONDITIONS FOR THE INCREASE OF PRODUCTION. HE CALLED ON THE PEOPLE ACTIVELY TO HELP THE GOV'T IN THESE TASKS.

7. THIEU SAID HE HAS REQUESTED, VIA HIS GOV'T'S PROCLAMATION OF JAN 8, 1975, OTHER GOVERNMENTS, PEOPLES, AND INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS TO RESPOND TO VIETNAM'S CALL FOR HELP.
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PAGE 03 SAIGON 00386 110101Z

HE THEN ASKED PEOPLE TO JOIN HIM IN PRAYING FOR THE PHUOC LONG VICTIMS, WHO, HE SAID, HAVE ALREADY SACRIFICED FOR THE THREE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE NATION: TO FIGHT THE AGGRESSORS, TO STRENGTHEN FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY, AND TO REESTABLISH PROSPERITY.

8. THIEU ENDED BY TELLING HIS AUDIENCE THAT "WE HAVE SHOWN REMARKABLE COURAGE AND PERSISTENCE. WE MUST SPEAK LOUDLY

FOR THE WORLD TO HEAR SO THEY CAN GIVE US MORAL AND MATERIAL
SUPPORT. THE ROAD IS LONG AND DIFFICULT, BUT AT THE END OF
THE ROAD THERE IS PEACE, FREEDOM, AND PROSPERITY. LE US CLOSE
RANKS IN THE CONVICTION THAT WE SHALL ACHIEVE FINAL VICTORY
FOR THE NATION AND THE PEOPLE."
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